

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 04511 061237Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 061216Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7727

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4511

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO

SUBJ: EANES INAUGURATION: FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 165495, (B) LISBON 4466

1. PER INSTRUCTIONS REF A, EMBASSY ON JULY 3 TOLD LTC MIGUEL OF POSSIBLE JULY 19 AVAILABILITY OF SECRETARY. MIGUEL SAID HE WOULD CHECK WITH EANES. HE NOTED THAT SOARES HAD NOT ADDRESSED QUESTION OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS YET. AMBASSADOR ALSO TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES SAME DAY. ANTUNES SAID HE WOULD SPEAK TO EANES. ON JULY 5, MIGUEL SAID EANES WAS OUT OF TOWN AND HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO RAISE MATTER, BUT WOULD BE IN TOUCH AS SOON AS EANES RETURNS.

2. COMMENT: GOP ABILITY TO SET DATE IS CONSTRAINED BY CONSTITUTION. HOWEVER, ACTUAL PROCEDURES ARE AMBIGUOUS AND UNDER DISPUTE. THIS COULD ALLOW GOP SOME LATITUDE IN MANIPULATING DATE. SUPREME COURT CERTIFIED ELECTION RESULTS TODAY (JULY 6), AND OUR READING SUGGESTS THAT INAUGURATION IS LIKELY TO BE IN JULY 14-17 PERIOD, DEPENDING ON CHALLENGES. A DELAY UNTIL JULY 19 WOULD BE DIFFICULT, PERHAPS EVEN IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE.
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